

C O N F I D E N T I A L TBILISI 003199

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PGOV PREL GG

SUBJECT: PEACE PLAN FOR SOUTH-OSSETIAN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Classified By: Ambassador John F. Tefft for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) In a November 30 meeting with Poloff, Deputy State Minister for Conflict Resolution Volski passed a copy of a non-paper on South Ossetia being prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The paper aims to demonstrate how the current peace plan is a logical outgrowth of President Saakashvili's presentation at the 2004 UN General Assembly. It notes the inability of the current Joint Control Commission (JCC) format to achieve resolution of the conflict. (Note: To Poloff, Volski said Georgians want to broaden the JCC to strengthen it, not destroy it. End note.) The non-paper asks for U.S. support for:

-- Georgia's ongoing democratic transformation.
-- Georgia's territorial integrity and its role in regional security.
-- The peace plan and its implementation including greater involvement of the U.S. and international community.
-- In closing, it asks the U.S. to urge Russia to support the peace plan and cooperate constructively with Georgia.

12. (SBU) Begin Text:

The Government of Georgia has developed a peace plan aiming at full-scale political settlement of South-Ossetian conflict in Georgia. The end goal of this process is full reintegration of the region into Georgia. The success of this process will create a model for resolving frozen conflicts and establishing lasting peace and stability in the Caucasus and the wider region. For the last two years Georgia has already played the role of a model and helped advancing democracy in post-Soviet space.

12. (SBU) Georgian government has proved its commitment to the peaceful resolution of the conflict through its consistent steps taken in the course of this year:

-- The main principles of Georgian vision of the conflict resolution were outlined by the President at the Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg on 26 January this year.

-- The principles of the Strasbourg initiative were further developed during the international conference in Batumi on 10 July setting the main priorities for the conflict resolution.

-- In his speech at UNGA President of Georgia reaffirmed Georgia's commitment for the peaceful resolution and identified specific areas of the peace process: demilitarization and confidence building measures; economic, social rehabilitation of the region; full-scale political settlement based on determination of political status.

-- On 27 October at the OSCE PC the Prime Minister of Georgia presented a comprehensive time-related Peace Plan providing specific measures and steps designed to accomplish the main objectives of the Georgian Government's peace initiative.

13. (SBU) The Georgian initiative is stimulated by the fact that the existing format is inadequate to the goal of conflict resolution and in reality serves as a tool for keeping the status quo of the frozen conflict. Georgian Government believes that without full-scale settlement, the frozen conflicts represent a threat to stability, preclude social and economic development and cause continued human suffering.

14. (SBU) Success of the peace plan and overall peace process will be determined by more constructive involvement of the Russian Federation, greater role of the United States and European Union and more effective participation of OSCE and other international organizations.

15. (SBU) Georgia would like the U.S. to support:

-- Ongoing democratic transformation in Georgia;
-- Georgia's territorial integrity and its role for the regional stability;
-- The Peace Plan and its implementation envisages greater involvement of the U.S. and international community.

16. (SBU) Georgia would like the U.S. to urge Russia to support the Peace Plan and cooperate constructively in Georgia.

End text.

TEFFT